

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q91904

Naoki YAMAJI, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/562,432

Group Art Unit: 3616

Confirmation No.: 3853

Examiner: Robert A COKER

Filed: December 28, 2005

For: AIR-BAG DEVICE

RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This responds to the Election of Species Requirement, dated June 14, 2007. The Examiner has identified the application as containing claims directed to more than one distinct species. The Examiner has required the Applicant to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted. The Examiner believes claims 5 and 6 are generic. Applicant has been advised that a response to this requirement shall include an identification of the species that is elected and a listing of all claims readable thereon.

In response to the Examiner's requirement, Applicant elects Group I, Figs. 1-6 for examination on which claims 1-3, 5 and 6 are readable. This election is made with traverse.

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Regarding Group II, it is true that the vent closing is done by tethers, however, with respect to controlling the expansion speed of the airbag, there is no difference between the tethers and cloth-like pieces. Therefore, Group II should be included with Group I.

Regarding Group III, although there are differences in the drawings, Figures 13-15 show another embodiment of the invention. Accordingly, the general inventive concept of Group III is the same as that of Group I.

Applicant submits that if any of the elected claims is found to be allowable, claims dependent therefrom should similarly be considered allowable in the same application.

Applicant reserves the right to file a Divisional Application directed to non-elected claims 7-12 and 13-15.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

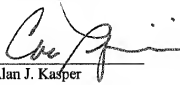
Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 13, 2007